GOV. MSG. NO. **750**



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A 28-year veteran of The Nature Conservancy, **Suzanne Case** has served as **Executive Director** of <u>The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i</u> since 2001. She oversees a Hawai'i program of 76 staff, 16 preserves totaling 53,000 acres, and an annual operating budget of \$11 million, working in native forest, coastal and marine conservation, directly and through partnerships, on six main Hawaiian Islands. She also oversees <u>Palmyra Atoll nature preserve and research station</u> in the Pacific, a globally acclaimed conservation and research collaboration of The Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Palmyra Atoll Research Consortium.

From 1987 to 2002, Case served as TNC Legal Counsel for the Conservancy's Hawai'i Program, the western United States, and internationally in the Asia/Pacific Region. During her years at The Nature Conservancy she has overseen the acquisition of the 116,000-acre Kahuku Ranch addition to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, eight Hawai'i Nature Conservancy preserves, Palmyra Atoll, new National Wildlife Refuges at Hakalau on the slopes of Mauna Kea and at O'ahu Forest, as well as the creation of watershed partnerships for forested management throughout the state, the growth of networks of local communities working to restore their near-shore marine resources, and implementation of large-scale projects to remove invasive algae removal from our reefs and coastal areas. She cocreated "Ke Ho'olono Nei", a Hawaiian song about loss and stewardship of native Hawaiian forest birds, and Maoli Nō, a free educational DVD of Hawaiian songs, chants and stories developed by The Nature Conservancy in 2003 for the Year of the Hawaiian Forest on the 100th anniversary of the creation of the Hawai'i forest reserve system.

Case was born in Hilo and grew up in Hilo and Honolulu. She attended Waiakea-Kai Elementary School, Keaukaha Elementary School and Punahou School (1974, where she was the first female student body president). She attended Williams College and Stanford University, where she graduated with honors (B.A., History, 1979). She received her law degree from Hastings College of the Law, University of California, San Francisco, where she was a member of the Hastings Law Journal (1983). She practiced real estate transactions law at the law firm of Pettit & Martin in San Francisco from 1983 to 1987.

Recognitions and Affiliations:

Ho 'okele Non-Profit Leadership Award, Hawai'i Community Foundation & W. A. Gerbode Foundation, 2014 The Garden Club of Honolulu *Hui Māla* Award, 2009; *Distinguished Friend* 2012

YWCA Leader Honoree, 2009

Member, Social Science Association, Hawai'i

Member, Lambda Alpha International real estate society

Member, Advisory Council, University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources

Governor's Economic Momentum Commission, 2006

The Nature Conservancy's mission is to conserve the lands and waters upon which all life depends. Since the Hawai'i program's establishment in 1980, The Nature Conservancy has brought its science-based, on-the-ground, collaborative and solution-oriented approach to forest and marine conservation throughout Hawai'i. The Nature Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of land throughout the state, owns and manages 16 preserves totaling 53,000 acres, and supports the forest stewardship work of Hawaii's watershed partnerships. The Nature Conservancy works with over a dozen local communities and other partners to protect the reefs and near-shore waters of the main Hawaiian Islands.